



## **Water Conservation Measures**

In order to combat the drought problem, the County of Mariposa has taken independent action. The County takes this issue very seriously, and has therefore put forth its own measures to remedy the problems associated with the 2014 drought. With the supplement of IRWM grant funding, the County hopes to strengthen the objectives already put forth.

The County of Mariposa has consistently urged residents to be mindful of water use and encouraged conservation as much as possible. In the community of Fish Camp, property owners have been similarly asked to reduce water usage. In the next set of water bills the County is sending out at the beginning of August, all users will be asked to implement 20 percent water conservation measures.

Mariposa has adopted a County Drought Preparedness Plan (included in this proposal as Att2\_DG\_Impact\_3of4) that will be integrated with its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The intention of the Plan is to provide information to water purveyors, business owners (both commercial and farming business), and residents. With this Plan, information regarding current droughts and future drought problems will be dispersed so that each person can do their part to conserve water. With the right education, the County will be more able to handle future water issues; also, it is hopeful that enacting this Plan now will encourage residents to practice more efficient uses of water every day rather than just during drought seasons.

The County has also provided a brochure to its residents relating to water conservation (included as Att2\_DG\_Impact\_4of4). This brochure, titled "Water Conservation Tips," provides a breakdown of measures their residents can take to conserve the limited water they do have. For example, the brochure states: "Collect the water that usually runs down the drain waiting for the hot water to appear in a bucket, and use it to water plants or flush toilets." The County also provides enticements to their residents, writing "When you save water, you save electricity and you save \$!" The pictures and helpful hints produced in the brochure provide a clear depiction of the independent actions that can be taken in order to fight against the drought.

Furthermore, the County, as a member of the Yosemite-Mariposa RWMG, has outlined a list of nine goals that will fulfill future water conservation measures. These goals were developed over a six-month period and required four discussions with participants at the main Yosemite-Mariposa Regional Water Advisory Council (RWAC) Meetings. In addition, the objectives required two additional meetings and two conference calls with the Objectives Subcommittee. These ideas were then circulated for review and comment to the RWAC and were followed by refinement. These goals include:



---

**Goal #1: Provide/Improve Reliable Water Supply within the Region**

---

- A. Provide reliable water supplies to meet all domestic water needs in the Region by 2035
- B. Improve understanding of groundwater usage, quality, and reliability throughout key groundwater use areas in the Region by 2035
- C. Promote Water Use Efficiency (WUE) practices throughout the Region and educate 80 percent of households and businesses by 2020
- D. Identify by 2019 and manage and conserve forest, wetlands, and range lands for enhancement of water supply by 2035

---

**Goal #2: Ensure Reliable Community Water and Wastewater Infrastructure**

---

- A. Assess and identify the current condition of private and community water systems and their plans, if any, for future improvements by 2018
- B. Assess and identify the current condition of community wastewater systems and their plans, if any, for future improvements by 2020
- C. Rehabilitate or replace aging and inadequate water and wastewater distribution/collection, treatment, and disposal infrastructure by 2035

---

**Goal #3: Maintain or Improve Water Quality in the Region**

---

- A. Identify and prioritize impacted watersheds by 2020
- B. Conserve and restore 10,000 acres of watersheds through improved forest and rangeland management practices and appropriate land use by 2020. Conserve and restore 20,000 acres by 2035.
- C. Implement water quality improvement activities where pollutants are identified by 2035
- D. Promote sustainable ecosystem and vegetation management on agricultural and production land, primarily near riparian corridors in the first five years of the IRWM Program

---

**Goal #4: Protect and Improve Wildlife Habitat**

---

- A. Improve watershed health by preventing the establishment of, or, reducing/eliminating aquatic and terrestrial invasive species in at least two locations per year starting in 2017
- B. Protect special status and sensitive species and preserve and restore 10,000 acres by 2025 and 20,000 acres by 2035
- C. Conserve and ensure the presence of non-fragmented wildlife corridor habitats

---

**Goal #5: Assess and Enhance Recreational Opportunities in the Region**

---

- A. Evaluate existing and potential recreational opportunities by 2019
- B. Enhance public access for recreation to waterways by 2035



**Goal #6: Develop Collaborative and Sustainable Partnerships both within and in Adjacent Regions**

---

- A. Identify, review and evaluate the effectiveness of ordinances and county planning related to water management in the Region by 2020
- B. Develop opportunities/data management system so that current scientific data can be made available to make informed, collaborative choices regarding water resources and land use planning throughout the Planning Period

**Goal #7: Reduce Risk of Catastrophic Fire**

---

- A. Facilitate and coordinate fuel management policies and strategies in at least two locations per year of high hazard lands in the Region

**Goal #8: Educate Stakeholders and County Residents about Water Issues through the IRWM Process to Inspire Public Action**

---

- A. Use education and outreach annually that maintains or increases watershed stewardship, resulting in water quality and ecological improvements

**Goal #9: Prepare for Impacts of Climate Change**

---

- A. Educate the public regarding the findings of the Climate Change Vulnerability Checklist for the Region by 2015 and periodically update the checklist with updated information
- B. Mitigate impacts of climate change by implementing cost-effective renewable energy production in at least one location by 2035 and promoting energy/water use efficiency for the Region
- C. Mitigate flood risk associated with climate change by cooperating with Local Hazard Mitigation Planning flood risk updates and educating the public regarding flood prevention and mitigation measures

As illustrated in Mariposa's nine goals and supporting objectives, it is the County's intention that the IRWM grant will strengthen the County's local planning efforts and results. The County has already taken steps to address the drought crisis, and with the funding support from the IRWM grant, the County will be able to successfully fulfill all of their goals and objectives.

Even more, the County will also be able to take on preventative measures against future drought issues that may arise in 2015 and beyond. Many of their goals surpass year 2014 and rather look to prevent future drought crises. Therefore, the funding from the IRWM grant will not only better Mariposa's current state but will also help to thwart future water emergencies for the County's residents and visitors.